

Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 BELFAS 00292 181759Z

63

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-15 /069 W

----- 037826

R 181727Z AUG 76

FM AMCONSUL BELFAST

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1394

INFO AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

USNAVCOMMSTA LONDON DERRY

UNCLAS BELFAST 292

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, UK, EI

SUBJECT: BRIAN FAULKNER LEAVES PARTY LEADERSHIP

1. FORMER NORTHERN IRELAND PRIME MINISTER BRIAN FAULKNER ANNOUNCED AUGUST 18 HIS RETIREMENT AS LEADER OF THE UNIONIST PARTY OF NORTHERN IRELAND (UPNI). THE TEXT OF HIS STATEMENT IS NOT YET AVAILABLE BUT PORTIONS WERE CARRIED ON RADIO. MR. FAULKNER SAID THAT HE WOULD RETAIN MEMBERSHIP IN UPNI AND WOULD SUPPORT WHOEVER SELECTED OR ELECTED TO REPLACE HIM. HE PREDICTED BRITISH GOVERNMENT WOULD TAKE NO FURTHER INITIATIVES TOWARD DEVOLVED GOVERNMENT IN NORTHERN IRELAND UNTIL DEVOLUTION ACHIEVED FOR SCOTLAND - A MATTER OF "TWO OR THREE YEARS". HE ALSO SAID THERE COULD BE NO BASIS FOR DEVOLVED GOVERNMENT HERE EXCEPT THAT OF PARTNERSHIP AND THAT COULD NOT BE REALIZED IN PRESENT SECURITY SITUATION. IN CIRCUMSTANCES, FAULKNER SAID, HE BELIEVED HIS ROLE SHOULD BE PURSUED IN "NATIONAL INDUSTRIAL AREA" AND THIS HE COULD NOT DO AS A PARTY LEADER.

2. FAULKNER WAS NOT THE FIRST SACRIFICE TO BE MADE ON THE ALTAR OF POLITICAL "COMPROMISE" IN ULSTER NOR WAS HE THE LAST - WILLIAM CRAIG HOLDS LATTER HONOR TO DATE. FAULKNER TO UNIONISTS HOWEVER IS LIVING SYMBOL OF ONE LOST IN THAT POLITICAL TWILIGHT THAT AWAITS THOSE

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 02 BELFAS 00292 181759Z

WHO STRAY BEYOND THE LIMITS OF THE GRASS-ROOTS. MANY IN

NORTHERN IRELAND SEE FAULKNER AS A VICTIM OF "PAISLEYISM".
FAULKNER HAS SAID HOWEVER THAT HE BLAMES ONLY HIMSELF, THAT,
AT SUNNINGDALE, HE YIELDED TO BRITISH URGING AND ACCEPTED
BOTH POWER-SHARING AND A COUNCIL OF IRELAND DESPITE HIS
RESERVATIONS. THE POLITICAL DEMISE OF FAULKNER IN 1974
MARKED A TURNING POINT IN BRITISH POLICY AND LED TO THE
CONVICTION THAT ANY ANSWER TO THE NORTHERN IRELAND QUESTION
COULD COME ONLY FROM THE PEOPLE OF NORTHERN IRELAND.

SPICER

UNCLASSIFIED

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: RETIREMENT, PARTY LEADERS, POLITICAL PARTIES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 18 AUG 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976BELFAS00292
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760317-0698
From: BELFAST
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760844/aaaabluj.tel
Line Count: 71
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: CunninFX
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 21 APR 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <21 APR 2004 by ReddocGW>; APPROVED <10 DEC 2004 by CunninFX>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: BRIAN FAULKNER LEAVES PARTY LEADERSHIP
TAGS: PINT, UK, EI, UNIONIST PARTY OF NO IRELAND, (FAULKNER, BRIAN)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006